CLOSED SHELF

The People's Korea

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Korea's Unification—Koreans' Own Affair

World Repercussions to Pre. Kim Il Sung's Reply on Unification

As was already reported in the 307th and 308th issues of the PEOPLE'S KOREA, the reply letter sent on Jan. 4 by Premier Kim Il Sung to Yongjeung Kim, President of the Korean Affairs Institute in Washington, has evoked far-reaching repercussions among the socialist countries and newly independent countries, which, fully backing Premier Kim Il Sung's reply on Korea's unification, strongly insist that Korea's unification issue must be solved on an independent basis, free from any interference of outside forces and demand that U.S. aggressor troops pull out of South Korea at once.

The reply continues to evoke repercussions in the world public.

In Cuba

Under the block-letter title "National split can never be removed by relying on outside forces," **"Granma,"** organ of the Cuban Communist Party, carried on Jan. 24 the full text of the reply letter together with the portrait of Premier Kim Il Sung.

On the same day another Cuban paper **"El Mundo"** also published the full text of the letter and the Cuban radio repeatedly aired its summary.

In Vietnam

On Jan. 22 Vietnamese paper **"Cuu Quoc"** ran an article entitled "Just stand on the question of Korea's reunification."

The article quoted from the letter the words that "We have all along proceeded from the position that the question of the reunification, a domestic problem of our nation, should be solved on the principle of independence free from any foreign interference, in a democratic way and by peaceful means."

It said: As everyone knows, there is no foreign troop in North Korea, but South Korea has long been under the occupation of the U.S. troops. The U.S. imperialists have fabricated a puppet regime in South Korea and take hold of all its military, political and economic domains. They have converted South Korea into a base for provoking a big war in Northeast Asia and the whole of Asia. This is the main obstacle in the way of Korea's reunification.

Therefore, the article declared, the key to this question lies in withdrawing the U.S. troops from South Korea which they are occupying under the cloak of "U.N. forces."

Denouncing the treachery of the South Korean puppet regime and the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists hindering the reunification of Korea, the article continued:

The reply letter once again made clear the just and reasonable stand of the Government and people of the DPRK on reunification.

"This stand has enjoyed and is enjoying the support of the South Korean people. The Vietnamese people whose country is divided due to the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys understand well the fraternal Korean people and warmly support the stand of the Korean Government and people.

In Poland

Polish paper **"Trybuna Ludu"** carried on Jan. 26 an article headlined "Conditions for Korea's reunification."

Pointing out that Premier Kim Il Sung put forth in his reply a realistic programme for the reunification, the article stressed that the programme boils down to achieving the reunification of Korea on the principle of independence free from any outside interference, in a democratic way and by peaceful means.

It held that the U.S. troops should pull out of South Korea, the "ROK-Japan Treaty" be abrogated and democracy fully ensured in the South Korean society. Recalling the tireless efforts made by the Government of the DPRK for accomplishing the reunification of the country, the article stressed that the door of Korea's reunification will be opened only when the proposals formulated in the reply are put into effect.

Another Polish paper **"Standar Molodych"** carried an article entitled "Who really wants the reunification of Korea?"

Noting that the Seoul clique are dead set against all the patriotic proposals of the Government of the DPRK proceeding from its deep concern for the future of Korea, the article referred to the intensified military provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique against the northern half of Korea.

Introducing the reply, Polish paper **"Zice Warszawy"** emphasized on Jan. 23 that the United Nations has neither qualification nor right to meddle in the Korean question and that the reunification through the "U.N.-supervised elections" advocated by the South Korean authorities is totally unreasonable.

On the same day, the Polish TV network reported a summary of the reply letter.

Under the title "North and South Korea with demarcation line between them," Polish paper **"Slobo Povseh"** carried on Jan. 24 an article supporting the reunification programme of the DPRK clarified once again in the reply letter.

On Jan. 21, Polish paper **"Dziennik Ludowy"** carried an article headlined "Proposal of Pyongyang."

In Czechoslovakia

On Jan. 22, Czechoslovak paper **"Rude Pravo"** introduced in detail the content of the reply letter under the headline "Korea's unification is the most pressing problem."

Referring to the deceptive nature of the "U.N.-supervised elections" advocated by U.S. imperialism and the South Korean puppet rulers, the paper wrote that U.S. imperialism is now using the U.N. for staying on in South Korea.

Expressing the belief that the ardent desire of the Korean people for the self-dependent reunification of the country would certainly be realized, it quoted from the letter the words that "the basic way for the unification of the fatherland is to establish a unified, democratic, central government by means of free North-South general elections following the withdrawal of all foreign troops."

In Hungary

In an article captioned "New initiative in Korea" Hungarian paper **"Nepszabadsag"** wrote on Jan. 20 that the reply letter marked a new important step in solving the question of Korea's reunification.

The proposals for Korea's unification expounded in the letter proceeded from the actual situation created in Korea after World War II, the paper noted, and said: The DPRK was founded and socialism is being built in the northern part of the Republic under a genuine people's power but in the southern part a U.S. puppet regime devoid of any independency was set up and the people there are languishing.

The U.S. refuses to withdraw its troops from South Korea, because it is afraid that the development and vitality of the northern half of the Republic will disintegrate the South Korean puppet regime and it will lose one of its most important bases in Asia. But even with the provocation of the sanguinary Korean War it could not reverse the situation, the paper noted.

The paper denounced the U.S. for obstructing the reunification of Korea and the South Korean authorities for categorically turning down the correct proposals of the DPRK Government for the country's reunification.

In Cambodia

Cambodian weekly **"Realite Cambodgienne,"** in a commentary on Jan. 27, introduced the content of the reply letter. It said that the reunification programme of the DPRK Government is clear-cut and logical.

The commentary wrote:

This country, a half of which is under foreign occupation, cannot be reunified by relying on outside forces. Foreigners must be withdrawn first, then the question will surely be solved among brothers.

Premier Kim Il Sung said

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Korean People's Army Marks Its 19th Birthday

In response to the line of the Korean Workers' Party on undertaking economic construction in parallel with defence build-up, the entire Korean people in North Korea are striving to reinforce the People's Army in every way and turning the whole country into a fortress while accelerating socialist economic construction.

Photo: A sentry of the Korean People's Army on the defence line

CLOSED SHELF

U.S.-British Suppression Of Lesotho People Blamed

The Korean Committee for Asian-African Solidarity sent a telegram on Jan. 30 to the Basutoland Congress Party, expressing firm solidarity with the Lesotho people in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism and for winning genuine freedom and independence for the country.

Pointing out that the fascist suppression of the Basutoland Congress Party and the Lesotho people by the reactionary Lesotho Government is not only a criminal act against the Lesotho people but an open challenge to the world's people, the telegram stressed:

We vehemently condemn the criminal acts committed by the U.S. and British imperialists and their stooges and strongly demand the unconditional, immediate release of the politicians under detention.

We are convinced that the just cause of the Lesotho people will surely win victory. We will actively support the righteous struggle of the Lesotho people and stand squarely on your side in the common struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

Korea-GDR Protocol On Technical Co-operation Signed

The 8th meeting of the Korean-German commission for scientific and technical cooperation was held in Pyongyang from Jan. 25 to 30.

The meeting summed up the results of the implementation of the decision of the last meeting and discussed this year's plan for scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. And a protocol was signed on Jan. 30.

Pentagon, Don't Run Wild!

U.S. Defence Secretary McNamara on Jan. 26 burst into coarse invectives against the DPRK in the Senate, reversing black and white, alleging that there exists a "military threat" from North Korea and that North Korea reveals its "bellicosity" with continuous provocations along the truce line, according to report from Washington.

His fabrication came at a time when the Washington strategists and their stooges in Seoul were raising a hue and cry over the sinking of escort craft No. 56 of the U.S. side by a self-defence measure of a shore battery of the Korean People's Army. This suggests that the Pentagon has something up its sleeve.

The U.S. moves to open the "second front" in Korea has become ever more pronounced since Johnson stated on Nov. 1 last year at the Korean military demarcation line that they might have to check an aggression in other parts of Asia.

From the outset of the new year the U.S. imperialists and Pak Jung Hi clique are ceaselessly staging all kinds of military manoeuvres in South Korea, declaring that they would activate another reserve division and introduce Hawk missiles and other mass destruction weapons and new-type combat equipment into South Korea in large quantities under the pretext of filling the gap caused by troop dispatches to South Vietnam.

In the last three months, the U.S. side has violated the Armistice Agreement on more than 1,500 occasions, including over 160 naval intrusions.

The intrusion of escort craft No. 56 into the coastal waters of the Korean side and its bombardment of the Korean coast were an extension of their planned military provocations.

It was not accidental that commander of the U.S. Army in the Pacific Beach and commander of the Eighth U.S. Army in South Korea Bonesteel were "inspecting" an area not far from the place of the incident when it occurred.

The sinking of escort craft No. 56 by a coastal battery of the Korean People's Army was deserving punishment of the provokers.

Nevertheless, McNamara, turning fact upside down, is trying to capitalize on the incident for intensifying war preparations in South Korea and justifying its occupation by the U.S. aggressor troops. This scheme was revealed when he said that stationing of the U.S. troops in South Korea and the considerable assistance of the U.S. troops to the "ROK" Army were still important for preserving the security of South Korea.

The South Korean brass hats sit frequently together these days and discuss arms reinforcement to implement their masters' bellicose plan.

The Pentagon fire-eaters are evidently resorting to the method employed by their seniors in unleashing the Korean War 17 years ago under the pretext of "intrusion from the North."

But the U.S. imperialists can never frighten the Korean people.

Today the Korean People's Army has grown incomparably stronger than it was at the time of the past Korean War when it defeated the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

The Korean people and People's Army are firmly determined to smash any surprise attack of the enemy and defend the independence and honor of the fatherland and, in case the enemy ventures a new war, they will crush it and reunify the divided fatherland.

U.S. imperialism should not run wild.

Korean People's Army—Genuine Armed Forces of Korean People

Today on Feb. 8, the Korean people greet with honor and pride the 19th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

The KPA was founded on Feb. 8, 1948 by the Korean Workers' Party and Marshal Kim Il Sung.

The KPA is the genuine revolutionary army and the people's army, which was organized with excellent sons and daughters of workers and farmers, with old revolutionary fighters tempered and steeled in the flames of the arduous armed struggle against Japanese imperialism as its backbone, and which has inherited the brilliant revolutionary tradition of the anti-Japanese partizans, who had valiantly fought for the liberation of the homeland for 15 odd years in the 1930's—thorough anti-imperialist ideology, lofty patriotism, indomitable revolutionary spirit, unity of the army with people and unity of officers and armymen.

It has traversed a really glorious road filled with struggles and victories for 19 years since its founding by carrying through the line of the KWP on building the army.

During the Korean War ignited by the U.S. imperialists, displaying peerless bravery and mass heroism, the KPA not only defended with credit the independence of the fatherland and the revolutionary gains, but also broke into pieces the myth about "the almightiness of U.S. imperialism," demonstrating its invincible power.

"The victory of our people was a victory of the revolutionary people over the reactionary forces of imperialism and a victory of the revolutionary army over the aggressive armed forces of imperialism." (Kim Il Sung)

The KPA, which was further tempered in the flames of the hard-fought battles and filled and strengthened with many new revolutionaries who were trained in the struggles against the enemy, has rich battle experiences.

In the post-war period, the KPA has made a big advance in equipping itself with modern weapons and developing military science and technology in accordance with the line of the KWP on making the army a cadre army and modernizing it.

By studying hard the advanced military science and technology, the military commanders of the KPA with rich battle experiences in beating the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops, have enhanced their military and political ability and art of leadership capable of organizing and commanding in battles and winning victory under any complex, difficult circumstances.

Due to hard military training for mastering modern weapons and combat equipment and the struggle for establishing *Juche* (national identity) in the military domain, the combat power of the units of all forces and arms of the KPA has been further reinforced, the military technical level of the armymen enhanced as never before and all armymen are being tempered into revolutionary fighters, each being a match for hundred.

The socialist system, the political and ideological unity of the masses of people and the foundation of a powerful self-dependent national economy and solid munition industry built by the people under the banner of self-reliance—all these guarantee the invincible might of the KPA and its solid rear.

Thanks to the far-sighted measures of the KWP, a nation-wide defence system has been established to counteract any surprise attack of the enemy. All the working people are powerfully pushing ahead with socialist construction, taking a hammer and sickle in one hand, and maintaining firm preparedness to defend the fatherland, holding a rifle in the other.

Today, the entire Korean people and the officers and men of the KPA are increasing the national defence capacity all the more, by displaying high revolutionary and creative enthusiasm in order to carry out the programmatic tasks put forth by the Conference of the KWP on carrying on economic construction and defence build-up in parallel, and further reinforcing the KPA, putting the entire people under arms and turning the whole land into a fortress in face of the present situation.

Thus, the defence line of Korea has been converted into an impregnable fortress.

However, instead of drawing a due lesson from their serious defeat sustained in the Korean War, the U.S. imperialist aggressors are hell-bent on military provocations along the 38th Parallel with a view to triggering a new war in Korea, while escalating the war of aggression in Vietnam.

This is nothing but a deathbed struggle of those who are doomed to ruin and bankruptcy.

The U.S. imperialists should look straight at the stark reality and should not run hog-wild recklessly.

If the U.S. aggressors should dare to provoke an aggressive war against the Korean people, they would suffer a blow hundreds of times more crushing than they did during the Korean War.

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that "We are firmly determined to reunify the country in our generation." We share his hope.

The U.S. imperialists' colonial rule in South Korea, the commentary declared, must be brought to an end and such traitors as Pak Jung Hi, faithful stooge of U.S. and Japanese imperialism, overthrown.

Pointing to the absurdity of the "U.N.-supervised election" which the South Korean authorities are calling for in an attempt to draw outside forces into the internal affairs of the nation, the commentary quoted the passage of the letter which says, "Should an independent regime be set up in South Korea, or South Korea become neutral, there would actually be no big obstacle for our people in reunifying the country by themselves."

Cambodian papers **"Meatophum"** and **"Phnom Penh Press"** introduced in detail Premier Kim Il Sung's reply letter on Jan. 21.

In UAR

UAR paper **"The Egyptian Gazette"** introduced the reply letter on Jan. 19 under the title "Proposal for Korea's reunification reclarified."

It quoted from the letter the following words: "The reunification of Korea is not achieved up to this date, more than 20 years after the surrender of Japanese imperialism. The responsibility rests entirely with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities who are fawning upon them and have reduced themselves to the faithful executor of the aggressive and nation-splitting policies of the United States toward Korea."

Another UAR paper **"Al Akhbar"** printed a summary of the reply letter on the same day. It stressed that the reunification proposal of the DPRK Government regards the withdrawal of all foreign troops as the prerequisite to unification.

In Congo(B)

Under the headline "Premier Kim Il Sung on Korea's reunification" Congolese (B) paper **"Depanda"** carried on Jan. 21 the full text of the reply letter together with the portrait of Premier Kim Il Sung.

Under the headline "On the question of Korea's reunification" Congolese (B) paper **"Etumba"** published on Jan. 27 the full text of Premier Kim Il Sung's reply letter together with his photograph.

The Congolese (B) News Agency also reported the full text of the reply under the title "Question of Korea's reunification."

Salute to 19th Armed Forces Day!

The Korean People's Army was founded with veteran guerilla fighters of the anti-Japanese armed national salvation struggle in '30s as its nuclei and on the basis of their revolutionary tradition and rich, unique battle experiences.

I am a youth of liberated Korea. Life is precious to me. So is my hope for the brilliant future. However, my life, my hope and my happiness are not so valuable as the fate of my fatherland. Nothing is more glorious, beautiful than to dedicate my only life to my only and one fatherland...

By **Li Soo Bok,** Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Korean People's Army has most dedicated sons and daughters of the Korean people as its servicemen. Proud of the anti-Japanese guerilla fighters tradition, they fought against U.S. imperialism during the Patriotic War of Liberation (1950-53) and gave their life to the nation's service. Their heroic action and dedication remain vivid in the minds of the Korean people and will do so for ever. The following is the story of a young soldier who fought and died for the cause of the fatherland during the war:

Our combatants defending the Kamak Hill had repulsed the mercenaries of U.S. imperialism 18 times. Then a spell of ominous silence ensued.

Squad leader Kang Ho Yung lost no time in looking round his men and encouraging them to prepare for a fresh battle.

"Comrades," he said, "we have carried out our battle duties with honour for two days now. The American mercenaries outnumbering us scores of times have attacked us 18 times. Nevertheless, we have not yielded even an inch of land to the enemy. Now, we have only a little ammunition left. We have little hope of getting reinforcements. But, comrades, we must hold this hill at all costs until our main unit cuts off the retreat of the enemy and arrives here."

Squad leader Kang Ho Yung, though seriously wounded in the right arm and head, showed concern for his men. His indomitable fighting spirit exerted a powerful influence on all the fighters, inspiring courage in their hearts.

Soon, the squad was again under the attack of the enemy. The hill was showered with bombs, shells and smoke-shells, and the trenches were enveloped in powder smoke in no time.

The squad leader collected himself and tried to ascertain the enemy's movements. But in the trenches where one could not see even an inch ahead, it was utterly impossible to find out anything.

The situation was critical. The enemy might storm us like mad dogs under cover of smoke screen, he thought to himself. We might be taken by surprise by the enemy overpowering us dozens of times, if we remain sitting here without knowing the movements of the enemy. What would be the result? There was no time to lose.

Kang Ho Yung darted up to the hill-top braving the rain of splinters of bombs and shells.

From there he could get a view of the surroundings. The upper half of the hill, from the mid-slope to the trenches, was shrouded in heavy smoke. The enemy soldiers were still huddled together in their positions at the foot of the hill.

Soon, U.S. mercenaries no less than 200 strong, spearheaded by Negro soldiers, started climbing up the ridge.

It was clear that the enemy's attempt was to break through our defence line by frontal attack under cover of smoke screen.

"Comrades, a company of enemy soldiers...to break through our defence line by a a frontal attack..." Suddenly a shell from an enemy tank exploded nearby and the cry of the squad leader stopped.

"Comrade squad leader!"

His men did not notice him climbing up the ridge, and so it was quite unexpected for them to hear his voice from there. His men called their leader impatiently, but there was no answer. The squad leader had fallen, heavily wounded in both legs.

He came to himself when he was put on a stretcher and his men were going to send him to the hospital in the rear. Sensing this, he resolutely refused: "No, take me off this stretcher!"

His men knew that although he was usually mild, he would go through fire and water to do what he thought was right. They did not insist but complied with his request.

Taken off the stretcher, Kang Ho Yung, with his automatic in his bosom, began to crawl using his sound left arm, leaving a trail of blood in the trenches. Thus he went from trench to trench telling his men the movements of the enemy and where to shoot and throw hand grenades.

He seemed to be well content with being still able to fight. At this moment there flashed through his mind the stirring sight of the day when the country was liberated from the Japanese imperialist rule under which he had been compelled to work as a hired hand for a greedy landlord, subjected to unbearable maltreatment, of the day when he joined the People's Army and first put on the army uniform, and of the day when he joined the glorious Workers' Party of Korea while serving at the front after the war began. And he saw in his mind's eye the image of warm-hearted Marshal Kim Il Sung and the waving flag of our Republic.

90 metres, 80 metres and 70 metres, the enemy was closing in. "Fire! Don't allow a single enemy soldier to escape!"

His men began to cut down the enemy. Squad leader Kang Ho Yung hit one enemy soldier after another, though he was injured seriously in the left arm, too.

He bled copiously. His strength failed him and he sank down to the ground. But he could not lie quiet.

"You devil!"

He pulled himself together and managed to rise to his feet by bracing his shoulder against the wall of the trench.

The enemy soldiers were already near the trenches. Our fighters mowed down the oncoming enemy, but U.S. mercenaries desperately moved on in fear of the "supervising army's" bullets from behind. The hand grenades of the enemy began to fly into the trenches. Our soldiers snatched them up before they exploded and threw them at the enemy. A tense battle went on. The squad leader clenched his teeth at the oncoming enemy. But, there was no help. He was fatally wounded all over his body, but still undaunted.

"Comrades, we should not yield an inch of land to the enemy!" with these words he rolled into the midst of the enemy, holding a hand grenade in his left hand. He disconnected the safety pin of the hand grenade with his teeth. The hand grenade exploded and a batch of enemy soldiers fell. Before perishing, he shouted: "Long live the Workers' Party of Korea!" "Long live Marshal Kim Il Sung!"

"Let's avenge our squad leader one hundred-fold and one thousand-fold!"

His men hurled themselves out of the trenches for a decisive battle. At this moment the stampeded enemy began to flee, leaving piles of dead bodies. Blue signal shots telling the attack of our combined units flew up into the glowing evening sky drawing a parabola. The thunderous roar of our guns shook the hill foretelling victory for our fighters.

The fighting men of the Korean People's Army are fully prepared to combat and smash any imperialist aggressors at any time in any place. They are keeping tight round-the-clock alert against ever-present danger of aggression.

"ROK" Army—Mercenaries of U.S. Imperialism

The South Korean "ROK" Army Headquarters recently marked off February as a month of "self-surrender" for the deserters and warned that those failing to report would be punished by law. This is designed to recruit army evaders whose number has sharply increased since the troop dispatch to South Vietnam and prevent further desertions. More than 50,000 men had deserted the puppet army by 1965 since the Pak Jung Hi clique came to power in May, 1961.

The puppet armymen undergo inhuman treatment. They are subjected to national humiliation by the Yankees and die a dog's death in South Vietnam as bullet shields for U.S. imperialism.

Even "ROK" army division commanders, to say nothing of the rank and files, have to follow the orders and instructions of low-ranking Yankee officers, their advisers.

The Eighth U.S. Army Headquarters in South Korea commands and controls the "ROK" Army through its military advisers.

Referring to the functions of these U.S. advisers, the head of the U.S. Military Advisory Group in South Korea, said that they gave "assistance" to the "ROK" Army in the carrying out of its operational plans, dispatch of troops to South Vietnam, military training, military exercises, logistics and so on and so forth. U.S. officers in South Vietnam shoot those "ROK" officers and men who disobey their orders. Such is their "assistance."

Only Death is in store for these war-weary soldiers...Photo: "ROK" army soldiers in South Vietnam in an endless march

Everything concerning military affairs from the appointment of generals to the consumption of gasoline must get the approval of the U.S. military advisers.

Even on the question of granting leave to "ROK" army officers and men, puppet Defense Minister Kim Sung Eun once said that approval had to come from the U.S. side since the operational command belongs to the U.S. side.

It is not without reason that Japanese journal "Economist" wrote, "the ROK Army is an army which cannot take any action as regards military command, arms and ammunition and equipment without the consent of the U.S. side."

The U.S. imperialists ignited a war of aggression against the northern half of Korea in 1950, by use of these mercenaries and are driving them into the shambles of war against the Vietnamese people from three years ago.

Now "ROK" army soldiers call themselves "bullet-proof jackets" of the U.S. troops.

Generals and military critics in Washington openly state that they can use the "ROK" Army in any place and at any time as an appendage of the U.S. Army.

National discrimination and hard life are the lot of the mercenaries.

A U.S. army officer named Howze once drove two "ROK" army lieutenant colonels out of the cabin to put his dog in. Today, in South Vietnam, a Yankee military dog eats one dollar 20 cents worth of meat a day, while a "ROK" army soldier there is given 12 cents worth of food.

When a U.S. army PSC in South Vietnam receives 380 dollars a month, a "ROK" army PSC gets 30 dollars.

"ROK" army officers and men rioted in South Vietnam when their comrades-in-arms were shot by a Yankee commander.

U.S. journal "Foreign Affairs" said that the "ROK" Army which the U.S. trained, taking so much pains, as the "crack troops of 'free Asia'" is no longer submissive.

Deserters Increasing In S. Korea

Army deserters and conscription evaders are increasing in South Korea. Hundreds of deserters are reported every month from each army corps, though the Pak Jung Hi clique are keeping a strict watch over the soldiers after setting up the "study committee for improving human relations" in the puppet Army Headquarters allegedly for ensuring a happy barrack life and increasing service efficiency.

The annual average of deserters shot up from 8,000 to 18,000 in 1965, the year when troop dispatch to South Vietnam began on a full scale, and the puppet authorities estimated another 50 per cent jump last year.

Puppet Defense Minister Kim Sung Eun bewailed that "military discipline has never been so loose."

The soldiers are awakened to their miserable fate in the colonial mercenary army of the U.S. imperialists. At night, soldiers are allowed to go to the lavatory in threes or fours, wearing pants only. But desertions continue. Some soldiers slip out of the barrack under the chassis of trucks.

Evasion of conscription is also widespread.

There came recently a report about 250,000 evaders. The rate of youths complying with call-up is decreasing every year. It dropped 14 per cent in 1965 from the previous year and 9.1 per cent in the first half of 1966 compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The puppet authorities admit "the chronic nature of conscription evasion."

Dirty "Election" Drive

More openly resorting to dishonest methods, the Pak Jung Hi clique are conspiring to win the coming "presidential and National Assembly elections," according to reports from Seoul. While suppressing the opposition election compaigns on absurd charges of "violation of the Election Law," the clique are extensively conducting election campaigns, even drawing public servants into them. Under the pretext of inspection visits to the troops deployed on the frontline, the "Chairman" of the "Democratic Republican Party" demanded the officers and soldiers of the puppet Army vote the party, emphasizing the need for a "landslide victory in the presidential election," "victory in the National Assembly election" and "reelection of Pak Jung Hi to the presidency." He revealed the malicious intention of the clique to remain in power by using force if necessary as he reiterated the "inseparability of military affairs and politics."

Meanwhile, the Pak Jung Hi clique are forcibly gathering people in extempore "policy-speech meetings," "amateur singing contests" and other rallies, utilizing such meetings to praise the past deeds of prospective candidates of the party and win support from them. These election gewgaws are particularly egregious in urban areas, including Seoul and Mokpo. Furthermore, to flank campaigns, the Pak Jung Hi clique are mounting an offensive by distributing towels bearing their names to the people in the electorates.

Not content with this, the clique are resorting to shameless plots to exapnd the influence of the party. All the chiefs of 1,500 local chapters of the party have been ordered to recruit new members for the party, for example, 15,000 new members in Wonjoo City and Monsung County alone.

The Pak Jung Hi clique are craftily pursuing a two-pronged policy, a policy of blocking the advance of opposition parties and at the same time suppressing them.

On Jan. 13, the puppet police not only forced members of a newly formed opposition party, the "Democratic Socialist Party," to bolt from it but also seized the bags with membership cards. On the same day, the puppet police authorities had the headquarters of another opposition party raided by a terrorist group, to destroy filing cabinets and rob documents on "organizational affairs."

240th MAC Meeting Held:

Continued U.S. Provocations Denounced

KAESONG, Jan. 31 (KCNA) —The 240th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission was held on Jan. 31, at the request of the Korean-Chinese side. At the meeting, Maj. Gen. Pak Joong Kook, senior member of the Korean-Chinese side, lodged a strong protest with the U.S. side against the continued intrusion of its naval vessels and aircraft into the coastal waters and air space of North Korea after the sinking of its escort craft No. 56.

He also called the U.S. side to account for its hostile act of firing bullets at the Korean-Chinese side in the demilitarized zone.

According to the statement of the major general, the U.S. side infiltrated into the North Korean eastern coastal waters escort-destroyer No. 71 and escort-guard craft No. 66 on Jan. 24.

On Jan. 25, 26 and 27, too, the U.S. side sent such naval craft as escort ships, escort-guard boats, escort-destroyers to the North Korean coastal waters.

At around 16 hours, Jan. 24, "AO-1" military aircraft of the U.S. side intruded into the air above the eastern coastal waters of the Korean-Chinese side and flew southward after committing a hostile act.

On Jan. 27, the U.S. side fired more than 50 bullets at the Korean-Chinese side in the demilitarized zone on three occasions. There were two cases of rifle-firing on Jan. 28.

Maj. Gen. Pak Joong Kook stated: "Such ceaseless hostile acts of the U.S. side eloquently prove that the U.S. side, failing to draw a lesson from the miserable end of its escort ship No. 56, is still resorting to reckless maneuvers to further intensify tension and ignite a new war of aggression in Korea. This is an open challenge to the Korean people."

He demanded the U.S. side severely punish, in accordance with the Armistice Agreement, the culprits who organized and commanded the recent naval and air intrusions, and firing incidents and all its personnel involved in them and take strict measures lest similar hostile act should occur again.

Ceaseless Naval Exercises in S. Korea

A radio report from Seoul says that the "Hankook fleet" of the South Korean Navy would stage a landing exercise in Kangreung and Yangpori on the eastern coast between Jan. 30 and Feb. 10.

This is the third large-scale military maneuvers since the sinking of escort craft No. 56 of the U.S. side which intruded into the North Korean coastal waters on Jan. 19.

South Korean news agencies reported that the U.S. Command had staged a fleet bombardment exercise on the sea off Kuje Island on Jan. 24 and 25 by mobilizing the South Korean Navy and was planning operation on the South Sea off Ryusoo from Jan. 28.

All this shows how desperately the U.S. imperialists have been trying to fan up a war atmosphere since the sinking of their guard ship.

Koreans in Japan Hold Meetings to Denounce Pak Clique's Traitorous Acts

Kim Byung Shik, vice-Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (CHONGRYUN), on Jan. 30 called on the Korean people in Japan to firmly uphold the program made clear afresh recently by Premier Kim Il Sung for an early realization of the reunification of Korea, further strengthen unity among themselves, and to rise up in their struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation. He said this at a lecture meeting held that day in Tokyo to denounce the South Korean regime for its various traitorous acts of selling out the country and the nation. Participating in the meeting were some 1,500 Korean compatriots living in the Japanese capital.

He went on to say: "We, Koreans in Japan, are required to do more than before in supporting positively our South Korean fellow-countrymen struggling to win their right to existence and democracy." Then, the vice-Chairman thoroughly exposed to public view the real nature of the forthcoming "presidential and general elections"

View of the lecture meeting held on Jan. 30 by Koreans in Tokyo to denounce the Pak Jung Hi clique's traitorous acts

in South Korea and strongly condemned the Pak Jung Hi clique, saying that "always intent on living up to the expectations of U.S. imperialism and Japanese militarism, the traitorous clique not only have placed South Korea under dual colonial subjugation by the U.S. and Japan, but also are becoming more bold and undisguised in their criminal acts of sending troops to Vietnam and of perpetrating provocative military acts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

"No regime has ever been so steady as the Pak Jung Hi regime in their dirty and criminal efforts to oppose unification and in keeping its nation divided," the vice-Chairman said. "In the light of this," he continued, "the most traitorous regime in Korean history is Pak Jung Hi's."

Next, the speaker enumerated facts showing the more intensified fascistic suppression of South Korean people by the puppet clique which, he said, had brought nothing to the people but hunger and poverty, as well as facts demonstrating their ugly greed for power.

He referred to the Japanese and South Korean reactionary endeavours to deprive Koreans in Japan of their rights, for example, a plot to force them to apply for the acquisition of so-called "permanent residence" in Japan and to change their DPRK nationality to that of the "ROK" (South Korea).

The speaker stressed in conclusion: All the Korean people in Japan should make full preparations for greeting the 8th Congress of CHONGRYUN scheduled to be held this May which, he said, is to be an occasion to display the strength of Korean compatriots in this county firmly united around CHONGRYUN under the banner of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "For this purpose, we must make all the possible efforts for successful implementation of the 1967 sixpoint major task," he stated. Similar meetings were also held in many other parts of Japan.

Former "ROK" Soldier Welcomed

KAESONG, Jan. 30 (KCNA) --Citizens in Kaesong City, the DPRK, gave on Jan. 29 a warm welcome to former "ROK" army PFC Suh Jung Han who is now visiting this old city.

Speaking at the welcome meeting, Cho Hong Yun, vice-Chairman of the Kaesong Municipal People's Committee, praised Suh Jung Han, who came over to North Korea, casting off the disgraceful "ROK" army life. He called it a righteous act against the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi clique, and declared that it was expressive of the sentiments of the South Korean people who were always looking up to the northern half of the Republic.

The Kaesong Municipal People's Committee and public organizations in the city gave souvenirs to Suh Jung Han.

Representatives of students, farmers and women made congratulatory speeches.

Suh Jung Han extended profound thanks to the Government of the Republic and Premier Kim Il Sung, great leader of the 40 million Korean people, who opened the way to a new life for him who, as he said, had been levelling his gun at his brothers in the North as a puppet army soldier.

Then, he dwelt on the slavish life of the "ROK" armymen and the ceaseless armed attacks and war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi clique against the northern half of the Republic along the military demarcation line, who noisily clamoured about "putting the country on a wartime footing."

He said how he was happy to meet his brothers in the North and how he felt bitter to learn the fact that his father, who, he had believed would be alive, was killed by the Yankees during the Patriotic War of Liberation (the Korean War).

"Upon hearing the news," he said, "I cursed myself for having pointed the gun at my parents and brothers, serving, though against my will, in the 'ROK' Army as a mercenary of the Americans."

"I cannot repress my surging hatred for the U.S. aggressors who killed my father and thousands upon thousands of guiltless Koreans. I will surely take vengeance upon the enemy a hundred-fold, a thousand-fold."

After the welcome meeting, Cho Hong Yun, vice-Chairman of the Kaesong Municipal People's Committee and Kim Won Joon, Secretary of the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, and other local officials and pubic figures met Suh Jung Han and had a friendly conversation with him.

In the evening, the Song and Dance Theatre in the city gave a performance to entertain Suh Jung Han.

Since he came down to Kaesong, Suh Jung Han has visited the South Gate, Sunjook Bridge, Kaesong Historical Museum, Kaesong Textile Mill, Kaesong Clock Producers' Cooperative and other historical monuments and industrial establishments in the city.

Demand for Unification Echoed By S. Korean Papers

South Korean papers echo the mounting voices of the people for reunifying their country by the nation itself, not relying upon foreign forces.

Criticizing the Pak Jung Hi clique who leave the unification question, the "question on the rise and fall of the nation," to the United Nations, a South Korean paper asked if they really wanted unification.

It advised those in power to reconsider the matter, and not to draw only on "resolutions" and "supervision" of the United Nations.

Deploring the tragic reality of South Korea today, the paper said that unification "cannot be expected to come from the Unites States which has brought such a situation."

"If they (South Korean rulers) really want unification, they should try to solve this question with the force of the nation itself," stressed the paper.

Another paper pointed out, it is entirely due to the outside force that our country has been kept divided for two decades. "It is not because our nation is inferior, or lacks wisdom, or has strong proclivities to internal division that our country remains divided," it added.

Holding that the reunification of the country should be achieved by the Korean people themselves, the paper said: "Anyone who desires unification, we believe, will not oppose this."

The paper continued:

"It is surely our historical, national task to take active steps analyzing all conditions from an independent stand."

South Korean papers rap at Pak Jung Hi's "argument on unification," saying that it is not in the least intended for unification.

A South Korean paper flayed Pak Jung Hi's outburst before newspapermen that the unification question should be discussed "within the framework of the law." "It is no doubt meant to rule out the free discussion of unification, to allow it only within the boundary of the evil law which is applicable to anyone," remarked the paper.

"Our separated compatriots, awake or asleep, have been eagerly looking forward to the day of unification, dreaming of it every night, over 22 years since the territory was divided," the daily said, and demanded that all the evil laws be removed and free discussion of unification permitted.

2nd Meeting of Model Korean Teachers in Japan

Han Duk Su, Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (CHONGRYUN), on Jan. 28 demanded that the Korean teachers in Japan increase their efforts to defend the right to the democratic and national education of Korean children in this country, in the light particularly of reactionaries' intensified subversive activities against it. He said this at the Second Meeting of Model Korean Teachers in Japan held in Tokyo that day.

Noting that this is the 10th year since Premier Kim Il Sung sent the first educational aid funds and scholarships to Korean residents in Japan, he expressed the belief that all the Korean teachers in Japan, upholding the teachings of Premier Kim Il Sung, would devote all their ability and patriotic zeal to the fulfilment of the tasks they assumed before the fatherland and the nation.

He was followed by Oh Jai Yang, vice-Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the Korean Teachers and School Clerks Union in Japan.

"One of the greatest achievements made in the model teachers' collective movement since the first meeting," he said, "is the fact that Korean teachers in this country have succeeded in establishing their independent national stand in education, improving the quality of education, and in promoting education in collectivism and socialist patriotism."

At present, 96 per cent of all the Korean teachers in Japan are embraced in the model teachers' movement, a collective innovation movement.

Koreans in Tokyo present at the CHONGRYUN-sponsored lecture meeting on Jan. 30

Song That Won Hearts of People

Fourteen years have already flown by since the battle subsided in Korea. But there are quite a few songs of the war days that people love to sing even today, songs that were sung on the scorched hills, at tense moments just before a charge on the enemy position, and on the long march.

One can recount many stories about every stanza, every tune of such favorite songs as the "Song of decisive battle," "At the well side," "Song of a driver," and "Moonkyung Pass," which were known to the outside world as songs of the fighting Korean people when the war was raging in the country with all its fury.

Singing these songs, the valorous fighters fought to the last man on hills where rocks were pulverized by the shells, and defiantly charged into the enemy. Singing these songs the people in the rear did all they could for the victory on the front.

Among the songs that are still today widely sung by soloists and chorus or played by orchestras is the "Moonkyung Pass" whose words were written by the late patriotic poet, Cho Ki Chun, and music composed by Li Myun Sang. The theme is the battle around the Moonkyung Pass—a long-winding, rugged pass on the boundary between North and South Kyungsang Provinces in the southeast of South Korea.

The enemy offered desperate resistance, deploying one division strong effectives around the pass, because the fall of the pass into our hands meant for the enemy the severance of its eastern and western sectors.

The People's Army fighters inched up with great efforts the 30 km precipitous trail where one faulty step might land one in the yawning valley down below. Besides their regular outfit, the People's Army men had to carry dismantled guns and heavy machineguns, which made it a tougher going.

But their hearts were burning with hatred for the enemy, and their spirits were sky-high. What inspired them in their tortuous advance was the battle songs which they sang in their hearts.

Among the fighters was one Li Sang Sul, who was born right across the ridge. At breaks he would tell his comrades-in-arms with great ardour about his native place, about his future plan for building a cable car line over the pass and turning his village into a land of plenty after the whole country was liberated.

The general attack started at daybreak. Having surrounded the enemy the previous night, the People's Army fighters pounced upon the enemy and routed it at a stroke. In this battle fighter Li Sang Sul sacrificed his life, without seeing his liberated village.

After burying him on a height overlooking his village, Li Sang Sul's comrades-in-arms all swore to avenge his death upon the enemy.

They rushed down the trail, liberated his native village. They pressed hard upon the enemy and cornered them in the southeastern pocket of South Korea.

Composer and People's Artist Li Myun Sang who was following the People's Army in the midst of the fighters took up this theme and gave expression to their feelings and sentiments through music.

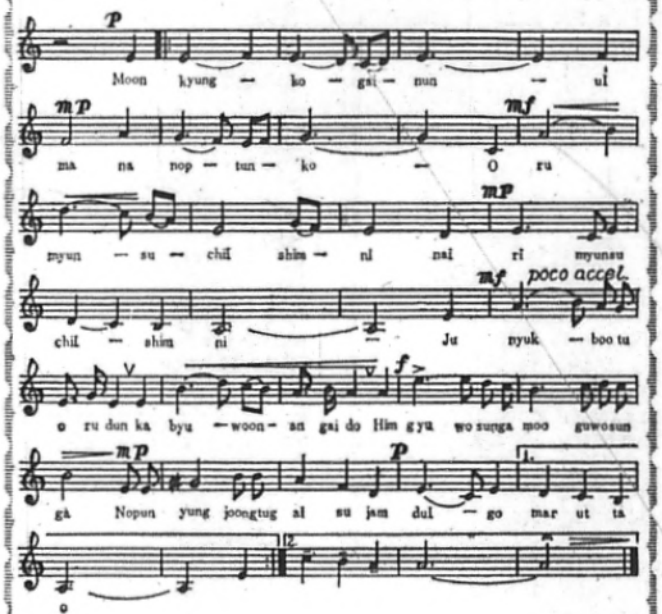
Thus, the song was composed, not on the keyboard of a piano or a score book, but on a torn piece of paper amid the rains of bombs and shells, on the firing line. Those who were to comment on the song first were the plain soldiers, not regular music critics.

The song singing of the gallant features of the People's Army fighters who dash forward, now falling and now rising up again, and break through the pass for the freedom and happiness of the people, soon spread from mouth to mouth and from hill to hill and became one of the favorite songs of the People's Army men.

Today, 14 years after the war, people still like to sing this song, putting spurs to Chullima, or the fleet-footed horse, to bring earlier the day when they will drive the U.S. imperialists out of South Korea and unify the country.

MOONKYUNG PASS

Words by Cho Ki Chun
Music by Li Myun Sang



Soaring before us, Oh, you Moonkyung Pass,
How high you looked to us then,
Defying all the attempt at climbing you,
Seventy-ri Ascent,
Seventy-ri Descent,
Even the thin mist in dusk,
Exhausted, or overcome by its own weight,
Abandoned its hope of reaching your peak,
Slumbering in the middle of your height.

Oh, Korean people, never forget,
Though that pass will never tell,
How many of our comrades-in-arms,
Shedding blood, Defeating enemies,
Crossed those steep shoulders of the pass,
Braving all the difficulties in their march,
How they climbed that pass in a single breath,
Singing happiness and freedom for this country.

(Note: One *ri* equals 400 metres)

Korean People's Army *Song and Dance Ensemble*

People's Army troupes are now giving performances in honor of the Army Day in our country.

The performance of the Korean People's Army Song and Dance Ensemble at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre is drawing a capacity audience every day.

This Ensemble was set up in 1948 along with the KPA which on Feb. 8 this year celebrates its 19th birthday. The Ensemble is a professional one giving performances chiefly for armymen. But it also appears before working folk. It has a big mixed chorus of several hundred members, men's and women's choruses, a dancers' group and a Korean folk orchestra as well as a modern orchestra.

Conspicuous in the history of this Ensemble are its activities during the Korean War against the U.S. aggression. The creative zeal of the staff of the Ensemble ran very high when heroic feats were being performed on the front and in the rear in the fight to defeat the enemy.

The actors and actresses of the Ensemble crossed the passes in driving snowfall and passed the gun ranges, braving a rain of shells, to visit soldiers on the front. They gave performances for soldiers in dug-outs, trenches, forests and even by the roadside during a halt of marching columns. Singers would also visit field hospitals to sing for the inmates there. The actors and actresses would spare time to wash uniforms for soldiers, attend the wounded soldiers and give a helping hand in digging trenches and carrying munitions.

Since the war, too, the creative staff of the Ensemble have made no small contribution toward helping the armymen, who are firmly defending the achievements of our people in socialist construction in the postwar years, in stepping up their fighting capacity and combat readiness and to instilling the spirit of socialist patriotism into the minds of armymen.

Time and again the Ensemble gave performances in fraternal countries in Europe and Asia and earned a high reputation among them.

It was awarded by the State thousands of medals and decorations for its outstanding art activities during the past 19 years.

One of the outstanding art troupes, the Korean People's Army Song and Dance Ensemble is warmly supported and loved by the armymen and people of our country.

KPA Volleyball Team Leaves for Bulgaria

A volleyball team of the Korean People's Army left Pyongyang on Feb. 4 for Bulgaria by plane to take part in the friendship volleyball championships of armies of the socialist countries to be held there.

Writer Li Maik Reports On Vietnam

Writer Li Maik made a report on Feb. 2 at the Chullima House of Culture in Pyongyang on his visit to the Vietnam Democratic Republic for one month from mid-December last year.

Dwelling on the struggle of the South Vietnamese people, writers and artists in their anti-American, national salvation resistance, he said that the South Vietnamese writers and artists are, at the same time, combatants.

He called upon the entire writers and artists of our country to render more active support to the fighting Vietnamese people through their creative activities.

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